

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously amended) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

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- a) forming a homogeneous solution by incorporating into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
  - b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
  - c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 40-80%.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein incorporating comprises dissolving the anesthetic in lipophilic base into a volatile solvent.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anesthetic is lidocaine.

E2 4. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1,  
wherein said volatile solvent is an alcohol.

5. (cancel)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaporating is  
carried out until less than 1 wt% of the volatile solvent  
remains in the solution.

7. (cancel)

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the  
anesthetic further comprises a thickener and an emulsifier.

9. (Previously amended) A method for applying a topical  
anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprises the steps  
of:

- EB a) mixing from about 40-80% of alcohol with a mixture  
containing:  
from about 3-40% of lidocaine;  
from about 0.5 to about 2.0%, preferably about 1.5%  
thickener;  
from about 0.5 to about 2.0%, preferably about 1.5%  
emulsiifer; and  
the balance being a lipophilic base selected from the  
group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow  
Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin

USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti  
Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF,  
White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;

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- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
  - c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein said topical anesthetic rapidly penetrates the skin surface at said skin.

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*E4*

10. (Originally) A method of topically anesthetizing an area of the skin, the method comprising topically administering a formulation containing an effective amount of a topical anesthetic dissolved in an effective amount of a volatile penetration enhancer, wherein the volatile penetration enhancer evaporates from the skin; and wherein said topical anesthetic rapidly penetrates the skin surface at said skin leaving a cool sensation on the skin.

11. (Originally) The method according to claim 10, wherein said volatile penetration enhancing agent is an alcohol.

12. (Originally) The method according to claim 10, wherein said volatile penetration enhancing agent is isopropyl alcohol.

13. (Previously amended) A method of obtaining topical anesthesia in mammals by way of topical application, said method comprising administering a formulation comprising a mixture of

lidocaine in a lipophilic base dissolved in 40-80% alcohol, wherein the lipophilic base is selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP.

14. (Previously amended) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

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CONT
- a) forming a homogeneous solution by incorporating into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
  - b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
  - c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 40-80%

wherein the anesthetic is a eutetic mixture of lidocaine and prilocaine.

- E5
15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said volatile ~~penetration enhancing agent~~ solvent is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol.

16. (New) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- E6
- a) forming a homogeneous solution by incorporating into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
  - b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
  - c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;
- wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 60-80%.